TRENDS

12/31/87 A3275-2

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

Office of Information
and Public Affairs
50 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-2555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, December 23, 1987 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads has topped a record set three years ago with a week left in 1987, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Through 51 weeks of this year, revenue ton-miles totaled an estimated 928 billion, eclipsing the previous high of 921 billion ton-miles set in 1984.

Freight traffic carried during the week ended December 19 totaled 18.8 billion ton-miles, up 7.9 percent from the 17.4 billion carried in the comparable week of 1986.

Carloadings originated in the week ended December 19 totaled 419,048, up 6.8 percent from the corresponding week of last year, but 3.8 percent below the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 8.2 percent in the East and 5.1 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 15 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Metallic ores increased by 5,995 cars (61.1 percent), grain showed a gain of 4,833 cars (18.1 percent), metals and products increased by 2,864 cars (41.1 percent), and coal loadings were up 2,582 cars (2.1 percent). Seventeen of the 20 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended December 12 totaled 106,808 trailers and/or containers, 1.8 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 50 weeks of the year was 4,966,142 trailers and/or containers, up 2.8 percent from 1986.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/19/87:

| | Loadings in Week ended December 19, 1987 | | Change from Corresponding Week 1986 | | | Change from Preceding Week | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cars | | Cars | Percent | | Cars | Percent |
| Grain | 31,513 | I | 4,833 | 18.1 | D | 200 | 0.6 |
| Other farm products | 5,303 | I | 1,070 | 25.3 | I | 144 | 2.8 |
| Metallic ores | 15,814 | I | 5,995 | 61.1 | D | 533 | 3.3 |
| Coal | 122,750 | I | 2,582 | 2.1 | D | 6,649 | 5.1 |
| Crushed stone, gravel and sand | 12,446 | I | 2,100 | 20.3 | D | 1,771 | 12.5 |
| Nonmetallic minerals | 9,304 | D | 1,490 | 13.8 | D | 39 | 0.4 |
| Grain mill products | 10,962 | I | 6 | 0.1 | D | 518 | 4.5 |
| Food and kindred products | 10,947 | I | 170 | 1.6 | D | 522 | 4.6 |
| Primary forest products | 11,141 | D | 52 | 0.5 | D | 365 | 3.2 |
| Lumber and wood products except furniture | 7,724 | D | 71 | 0.9 | D | 158 | 2.0 |
| Pulp, paper and allied products | 11,771 | D | 422 | 3.5 | I | 61 | 0.5 |
| Chemicals and allied products | 26,936 | I | 1,323 | 5.2 | D | 810 | 2.9 |
| Petroleum products | 4,576 | I | 128 | 2.9 | D | 599 | 11.6 |
| Stone, clay and glass products | 8,959 | I | 515 | 6.1 | D | 1,461 | 14.0 |
| Coke | 5,715 | I | 2,163 | 60.9 | I | 91 | 1.6 |
| Metals and products | 9,837 | I | 2,864 | 41.1 | D | 51 | 0.5 |
| Motor vehicles and equipment | 19,798 | I | 46 | 0.2 | D | 1,822 | 8.4 |
| Waste and scrap materials | 9,250 | I | 1,243 | 15.5 | D | 742 | 7.4 |
| Forwarder and shipper association traffic | 2,472 | D | 480 | 16.3 | D | 112 | 4.3 |
| All other carloads | 81,830 | I | 3,994 | 5.1 | D | 303 | 0.4 |
| Total Cars Loaded | 419,048 | I | 26,517 | 6.8 | D | 16,359 | 3.8 |
| Corresponding week of 1986 | 392,531 | | | | | | |

| | 1987 | 1986 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total Cars Loaded (51 weeks) | 20,518,602 | 19,536,328 | I 5.0 |
| Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions): | | | |
| 50 Weeks ended December 12 | 909.2 | 845.9 | I 7.5 |
| Week ended December 19 | 18.8 | 17.4 | I 7.9 |
| 51 Weeks cumulative | 928.0 | 863.4 | I 7.5 |

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